

displaying a composite area as an aggregation of unit areas into which images are insertable; and

inserting a processing target image into a unit area within the composite area.

13. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps comprising:

displaying a composite area as an aggregation of unit areas into which images are insertable;

detecting an indication of a processing target image;

detecting a transfer of the indicated image; and

inserting the indicated image into a transfer destination unit area.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please REPLACE Figures 2, 11, 12, and 14 with Figures 2, 11, 12, and 14 included in the Submission of Drawings filed concurrently herewith.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 30, 2003, the specification was objected to and claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cullen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,230). The foregoing objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Specification and Claims 1, 10, 12, and 13 are amended. Figures 2, 11, 12, and 14 are amended for clarification.

Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

A Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings, and a Submission of Drawings corresponding thereto, are filed concurrently herewith, amending Figures 2, 11, 12, and 14 for clarification. A Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings is filed concurrently herewith, in which changes to Figures 2, 11, 12,

and 14 are indicated in RED, corresponding to the clean copies of Figures 2, 11, 12, and 14 included in the Submission of Drawings.

Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1, 10, 12, and 13 are independent claims. Claims 2-9, and 14-19 depend directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and claim 11 depends directly from claim 10.

The specification is amended, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

Cullen et al. discloses dividing and reading an oversized image into a plurality of image fragments by a scanner, displaying two or more image fragments on a display, and reproducing and outputting the oversize image by operating the image fragments on a screen by a user.

In contrast, in the present invention as recited in each of claims 1, 12, and 13, two kinds of unit areas exist as shown in Figs. 5, 6, 8, and 10. That is, there are a unit area to which an image was inserted and a unit area to which an image is not inserted.

Each of claims 1, 12, and 13 is amended to recite "unit areas into which images are insertable".

Cullen does not discuss or suggest the foregoing features of the present invention.

The Examiner asserts that Cullen et al. also discloses an image processing system comprising a plurality of unit storage areas (system memory 16, fixed disk 32 and virtual memory) storing processing target images (image fragments); and a control unit (central processing 14) controlling an access to each of the unit storage areas, wherein the control unit stores the processing target unit images in the plurality of unit storage areas, accesses the storage areas in a predetermined sequence, and thereby generates a composite image from the unit images.

However, Cullen et al. does not disclose or suggest "a plurality of unit storage areas". Further, Cullen et al. does not disclose or suggest accessing the unit storage areas in a predetermined sequence.

Amended claim 10 recites "a plurality of unit storage areas ensured according to processing target images".

Cullen does not disclose or suggest the foregoing features of the present invention.

The above-mentioned dependent claims are allowable at least for their dependence upon one of the above-mentioned independent claims and, further, recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 2/1 recites "the image inserted into the unit area is transferable to other unit area within the composite area."

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

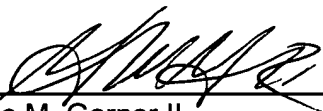
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 30, 2003

By: 
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please INSERT the following new paragraph after line 3 on page 1 of the specification:

1. Field of the Invention

Please INSERT the following new paragraph after line 5 on page 1 of the specification:

2. Description of the Related Art

Please AMEND the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10, as follows:

This technology is capable of laying out the images in any positions on the sheet. Further, according to this technology, it is feasible to lay out the images in a way of being overlapped with each other, and to specify the target image to be location at the forward of other images or at the back of other image when overlapped. Further, a size of each of [the] those images laid out on the sheet can be varied to an arbitrary value as the user specifies.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) An image processing system comprising:
a display unit displaying, on a screen, a composite area as an aggregation of unit areas into which images are [inserted] insertable; and
an operation unit inserting a processing target image into the unit area within the composite area.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) An image processing system comprising:
a plurality of unit storage areas [storing processing] ensured according to processing target images; and
a control unit controlling an access to each of the unit storage areas,

wherein said control unit stores the processing target unit images in said plurality of unit storage areas, accesses said unit storage areas in a predetermined sequence, and thereby generates a composite image from the unit images.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps comprising:
displaying a composite area as an aggregation of unit areas into which images are
[inserted] insertable; and
inserting a processing target image into a unit area within the composite area.

13. (ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps comprising:
displaying a composite area as an aggregation of unit areas into which images are
[inserted] insertable;
detecting an indication of a processing target image;
detecting a transfer of the indicated image; and
inserting the indicated image into a transfer destination unit area.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please AMEND Figures 2, 11, 12, and 14 as indicated in RED on the copies of same included in the Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings filed concurrently herewith.